

## Message Text

SECRET

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 MC-02 AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 PRS-01

TRSE-00 RSR-01 /103 W

----- 051396

R 071125 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4073

INFO DOD WASHDC

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

S E C R E T JIDDA 2362

DOD FOR ISA

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJ: F-4' S: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN

REF: A. DA'S 242104 Z MAY 73; B. USMTM 230603 Z MAY 73

C. STATE 104563

1. MODA PRINCE SULTAN IS EXPECTED TO RETURN TO SAUDI ARABIA AROUND JUNE 12. I EXPECT TO CALL ON HIM SOON THEREAFTER TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF PENDING ITEMS AND IT SEEMS LIKELY AT THAT TIME THAT SUBJECT OF F-4 SALES WILL ARISE.

2. IN DISCUSSING THIS TOPIC WITH SULTAN, I WOULD GIVE EMPHASIS AND PRECEDENCE TO REQUIREMENT FOR PRELIMINARY MANPOWER REVIEW -- A POINT MADE IN SULTAN'S ABSENCE WITH PRINCE TURKI. I WILL EXPLAIN TO PRINCE SULTAN THAT THE PLANNED EVOLUTION OF RSAF, AND OTHER BRANCHES OF SAUDI ARMED FORCES, IS CERTAIN TO MAKE UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND SUPON SAUDI ARABIA'S AVAILABLE MANPOWER. FOR THIS REASON WE ARE GIVING HIGH PRIORITY TO ASSEMBLING TOP- FLIGHT GROUP OF MANPOWER EXPERTS WHO COULD ASSIST

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MODA IN CONDUCTING COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF SAUDI ARABIAN MILITARY MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES. I WOULD ADD WE HOPE TO HAVE FURTHER WORD FOR THE PRINCE ON ETA S FOR MTT IN NEAR FUTRUE; WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT SUCH A TEAM COULD PROVE OF GREATEST VALUE TO SAG' S ARMED FORCES AND TO RSAF IN PARTICULAR.

3. AT SAME TIME WE CAN EXPECT THAT SULTAN WILL BE INTERESTED IN STATUS OF OUR THINKING RE F-4' S. WE KNOW MOREOVER THAT SAG CONTINUES TO SHOW INTEREST IN PERFORMANCE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT; FRENCH COMMERCIAL OFFICER HAS INFORMED US THAT GOF PREPARED TO SEND MIRAGE F-1 DEMONSTRATION TEAM TO SAUDI ARABIA OR TO RECEIVE SAUDI OVSERVATION TEAM IN FRANCE AT WHATEVER TIME SAUDIS DEEM CONVENIENT.

4. I BELIEVE THEREFORE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR MY MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN IF -- AFTER MAKING MANPOWER POINTS ( ABOVE) -- I COULD ADD THAT USG PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH MODA AS IT CONDUCTS ITS STUDIES AND EVALUATIONS OF OPTIMUM FUTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR RSAF. SPECIFICALLY, WITH REGARD TO OUR WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER SALE OF F-4' S TO SAUDI ARABIA, WE ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE MODA WITH TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS, EITHER IN-COUNTRY OR ELSEWHERE. WE ALSO PREPARED TO CONSIDER DEMONSTRATION OF AIRCRAFT TO TEAM OF SAUDI EXPERTS AT A SITE EITHER IN EUROPE OR IN U. S.

5. PRESENTATION ALONG LINES SUGGESTED ABOVE NEED NOT ADVANCE DATE OF POSSIBLE DELIVERY OF F-4' S TO SAUDI ARABIA BEFORE MOMENT WHEN IT IS CONCLUDED SAUDI SHAVE MANPOWER TO ABSORB THEM. IT SEEMS TO US, HOWEVER, THAT IN FACE OF CONTINUING FRENCH INTEREST AND PRESSURES, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOW THAT QUESTION OF F-4 SALE TO SAUDI ARABIA IS OF ON- GOING CONCERN TO US.  
THACHER

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**Subject:** F-4' S: AMBASSADOR' S MEETING WITH PRINCE SULTAN  
**TAGS:** MASS, SA  
**To:** CHUSMTM DHAHRAN  
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